



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health
Gila River Indian Community

Meeting Minutes September 4th Gila River Indian Community Council Meeting

Council Members in attendance

Melissa Madrid
Priscilla Foote, Chair
Byron Donahue (absent)
Reyna Byler
Arlie Beeson (Absent)
Duane Johns, Vice Chair
Pamela Johnson (Absent)
Pat Foster (Joined meeting @ 5:57)
Dale Enos
Patricia Cook
Sister Martha

First Things First Staff

Cathy Thornton Gila River Indian Community Regional Coordinator
Aimee Kempton-Sarosi Pinal Regional Coordinator
Dr. Alicia Smith Senior Policy Specialist
Jeanne Weeks First Things First Finance
Ana Garcia Central East Regional Administrative Assistant

Guests

Barbara Mezzio Pinal Regional Partnership Council Chair
Dr. Jill Stamm Founder and Presenter for New Directions Institute

Public

8 members of the public were present

Call to order

Meeting called to order by Regional Partnership Chair Priscilla Foote at approx. 5:51 PM.

Brief welcome to everyone by Regional Partnership Chair Priscilla Foote.
Regional Council Chair Priscilla Foote further welcomed and recognized new Regional Council Member Mr. Dale Enos.

Invocation

Invocation by Regional Council Member Sister Martha.

Consent Agenda

Regional Vice Chair, Duane Johns motioned to accept the minutes with no corrections. Regional Council member Cook seconded. Motion carried.

Regional Council Chair gave brief introduction of Founder of the New Directions Institute and presenter for this meeting. Dr. Jill Stamm.

Dr. Stamm gave a brief description of how New Directions was founded. She started when her 2 children (both girls) were very young and she did it because she came to the realization that there was no other program that really taught parents how to give a child the best chance to prepare them for learning. She stated that she has learned so much from her 2 daughters. One is a very successful young woman who was able to obtain her P.H. D in Psychology. Her other daughter, Jenni has taught her probably the most important life lessons in life. She was born at only 1 pound and the doctors stated at the time that she would never talk or walk and even suggested that Dr. Stamm commit her to an institution. Instead, Dr Stamm and her husband decided that he would stay home and give their child the best possible care and love that they could and that Dr. Stamm would be the bread winner. At the time there was so little information regarding brain development that she did what she knew best and that was to teach her daughter everything that she could possible teach her. She spoke to her child like there was nothing wrong with her and tried to fill her with information on all different subjects. By quoting Maya Angelou, "I did what I knew, and when I knew better I did better". She adopted this quote as her way of life.

New Directions main mission is for infant brain development and to provide families with a tool that they can utilize regardless of education, background, income or culture. Healthy development means optimal learning capacity and fewer learning disabilities... and the effects are life long.

S.T.E.P.S. to early brain development

Based on the latest neuroscientific research S.T.E.P.S. curriculum relates specific activities to help a child develop a sense of security, touch, eyes (vision), play and sound. Through New Directions trainer program, trainers are prepared to educate parents, child care providers, teachers, social workers about early brain development in infants, toddlers and preschoolers to prepare them for later school success.

The earlier the brain development system "wires up" the more resistant it is to change. Researchers tell us that close to 90 percent of a child's brain develops by age three. This means children's earliest experiences have a profound impact on the way their brains organize and develop and can affect their ability to learn and succeed in school and life.

Presentation On New Directions

Brief presentation by Hugh Downs on The Upstream Solution.

The human capacity to develop and change is greatest from birth to five years old when the brain is most malleable and able to change in response to education and stimulation. However, public investment is lowest in early childhood, creating a mismatch between the investments made and the opportunity for improvement. As a result there is a great demand for expensive remedial programs to address learning and behavior problems in later years when change is far more difficult to achieve.

A human brain is 50% wired by the age of one. By age 3 it is almost fully wired. Order and timing of capacities are very important. Sensory deprivation completely affects brain development.

Brain Box

The brain box is a unique educational tool for parents and child care givers to use with children 0-5 ½ years old. Each box contains activity guides and all the materials needed for adult-child interaction that encourages healthy brain development

At the present time the workshops are free. New Directions also provides training for Child care givers with “Brain boxes” appropriate for every age.

New Directions provides training to 125+ care givers from “Tutor Time” every month. New Directions has also partnered with Saint Joseph Hospital and all the Banner Hospitals.

Council member Sister Martha asked Dr. Stamm how her daughter Jenni is doing. Dr. Stamm reported that Jenni is doing fine living in a group home very happy. “She talks up a storm and tells everyone what to do”

FTF GRIC RPC Brochure

Regional Coordinator Thornton indicated that the sample brochure could be changed to meet Council’s wishes.

First Change would be under Council’s vacancy. Delete “vacancy” and replace with Dale Enos. Ms. Thornton also indicated that other communities decided to take the map out and replace it with the community logo.

Regional Council Member Cook indicated that she really likes the map and would not want to delete it.

Regional Council Chair Foote remarked that concerning formatting, with all instances where the phrase Regional Partnership Council appears the hyphen should be deleted.

Regional Vice Chair Johns also indicated that the formatting where the quotes appear seems too lengthy and would like that changed.

Council Member Cook likes Council Member Johnson’s quote and suggested that it be placed on the front of the brochure. Council Member Beeson’s quote should be formatted better. The picture of the little girl should be placed in the back in order to spread the vision more.

There was discussion concerning placing the community’s seal and deleting the FTF seal.

Final corrections are as follows:

Delete Council vacancy and replace with Dale Enos.

Picture of little girl to replace picture of pots and baskets. Given the vision portion more room

Bring FTF logo down a little bit.

Change quotes and have Pamela Johnson’s quote in the front part of the brochure.

Council Member Beeson’s quote formatted and spaced better.

Regional Council Member Foster motioned to approve brochure with all changes noted and to show the Regional Council the final draft at next meeting. Regional Member Sister Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Coordinators Update

Regional Coordinator Thornton gave report on the new final allocation document. The final Allocation for Gila River Indian Community will be \$510,403

Council Vacancy filled by Mr. Dale Enos.

Regional Coordinator Thornton gave a brief description of Mr. Enos. Qualifications.

Brief report by Regional Administrative Assistant Ana Garcia regarding I-9s and Defensive driving course.

Ms. Garcia reported that anyone that wanted to do the I-9s would be welcome to do them after the meeting. The Council Members will need the I-9s done before they can do the defensive driving training course.

Review and Overview of Strategic Planning

Strategic planning handouts were distributed to all present.

Ms. Thornton gave detailed information contained within the handouts that were provided.

Strategies with State Funding:

- Quality and Access goals
- Professional Development Goals
- Family support goals
- Communication goals

Funding Plan

- Baseline
- Regional Funding
- Statewide Funding
- Administrative
- GRIC RPC

Community outreach

Ms Thornton described in detail the events on the Community Outreach handout that are calendared for August and September.

Clarification on the calendared event number 4 District 6 Community Meeting will be deleted due to not being able to be placed on the District and Community meeting agenda

Delete Item 7 District 1 Community Meeting due to elections.

Updates

Regional Coordinator reported on a future community meeting to allow members of the community input into the needs and assets for Gila River Indian Community. Regional Council Member Byler suggested placing a map and list of invitees on the back of the brochure that will be distributed concerning the event.

Regional Council Member Cook turned in completed surveys.

Suggestion by Council Member Cook to keep certain items on the RPC agendas i.e. Need data for children 0-3 yrs old continuously.

Regional Council Coordinator Thornton indicated that the needs and assets report should be delivered to her on Friday and does the Council want to have a meeting to discuss and edit it? Or would the Council prefer to have small groups meet (less than quorum) and edit it and then Ms. Thornton will forward all the changes and corrections to the rest of the Council members.

Discussion among council members regarding dates when report should be turned in to the ESC and whether the report should be turned in to the Governor's office first.

Regional Vice Chair Johns proposed to get clarification on whether the report needs to be submitted to the Governor's office before being turned in to the ESC. Ms Thornton will find out and notify the Council Members.

Regional Council Member Foster volunteered to speak to Chair Hogg on the procedure and she will report to MS Thornton.

Final Regional Coordinator Ms. Kempton-Sarosi indicated that the State Board will meet September 28, 2008 and there won't be a meeting in November.

Ms Thornton indicated that report will have to be submitted to the ESC on October 2, 2008 in order to have it reviewed at the October 6th meeting.

September 17th will be prioritization meeting and no business will be transacted.

Regional Council Member Sister Martha suggested that everyone e-mail Ms. Thornton all changes or corrections on the report. Ms Thornton asked that the Council Members **do not e-mail each other the changes since that would be a violation of the open meeting law.**

Work group meeting will be held Friday 12th @ 1:00 PM Council Members that will be attending:

- Melissa Madrid
- Reyna Byler
- Dale Enos
- Duane Johns

Meeting will be held in St Peter's Library

Regional Vice Chair Johns motioned to have the Regional Council meeting scheduled for September 25th @ 5:30 PM @ Saint Peter Indian Mission's Library. Council Member Byler seconded. Motion carried

No Public Comment

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 PM

SUBMITTED BY:

Ana Garcia AA III

Approved:

Priscilla Foote, Regional Council Chair